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### STATE OF MONTANA

### BULLETIN

OF THE

## Department of Public Health

Vol. 4

March 15, 1912

No. 12

### MONTANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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#### HELENA, MONTANA

Published Monthly at Helena, by the State Board of Health.

"The science of disease prevention, if properly applied, can add fifteen years to the present average length of human life."—Prof. Irving Fisher, Yale.

This Bulletin will be mailed monthly to any person in Montana upon request mailed to the Secretary of the State Board of Health at Helena.



# OPINION OF INTEREST TO HEALTH OFFICERS, REGISTRARS, OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS, AND CORONERS.

Helena, Mont., March 5th, 1912.

Dr. T. D. Tuttle,

Sec'y State Board of Health,

Helena, Montana.

Dear Sir:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst., submitting the question:

Whose duty is it to sign the death certificate required by Section 1770, Revised Codes, as amended?

Said Section 1770 as amended by Chapter 48, Laws of 1909, contains the statement:

"The medical certificate shall be made and signed by the attending physician, if any, last in attendance on the deceased."

Section 1771, Revised Codes, provides that in case of any death occurring without medical attendance the undertaker shall notify the registrar of such death and the registrar shall inform either the local health officer or the coroner and refer the case to him for immediate investigation and certification. The duty of the coronor primarily is to make inquiry as to whether a crime has been committed rather than to make investigation as to the precise cause of the death. Under these statutes, I believe the following rules may be taken as a guide in determining whose duty it is to sign the "certificate of death."

I. Where the deceased was under the care and treatment of a physician at the time of his death it is the duty of such physician to sign the certificate, even though a coroner's inquest may be held.

2. Where the person died without medical attend-

2. Where the person died without medical attendance, the undertaker notifies the registrar and the registrar notifies the health officer or the coroner, and whichever one of these officials is so notified, he shall immediately make the necessary investigation and sign the certificate.

The registrar appears to be at liberty to notify either the health officer or the coroner in his discretion, the purpose being, perhaps, to select the one who under the circumstances of the case will most expedite the investigation.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) ALBERT J. GALEN,
Attorney General.

Helena, March 15, 1912.

Dr. T. D. Tuttle, Sec'y State Board of Health, Helena, Montana.

Dear Sir:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 15th submitting the following questions for my official opinion:

- I. Is the State responsible for all or any part of the salary of a local or County health officer when such health officer is engaged in performing the duties under the requirements of what is commonly known as the Pure Food Law and the rules and regulations of the State Board of Health made thereunder?
- 2. When a local or County health officer is employed on a per diem basis, that is when he receives a salary for such days as he may devote to Public Health work, is the State responsible for all or any of the days that he may devote to work under the law and regulations mentioned in question one?
- 3. When a local or County health officer is required to travel any distance in making the regular monthly inspection provided for in the regulations of the State Board of Health under the provisions of the Pure Food Law, is the State responsible for his traveling expenses, or are such traveling expenses paid as provided for in section 1492, Revised Codes of Montana, 1907?
- 4. Is the State responsible for the cost of samples of food products purchased and for transporting such samples to the laboratory, these samples being purchased by the direct order of the Secretary of the State Board of Health?

In reply to your first and second questions, I will say that under the provisions of Sec 1497, Revised Codes, as amended by Chapter 117, Session Laws of 1909, the salary of each health officer, whether he be employed on a per diem basis or by the month, is payable by the city or the town for which he is such health officer, or by the county in the event he is a county health officer, and the provisions of Chap. 130, Session Laws

of 1911, do not in anywise change the law in this respect.

In answer to your third question, I will say that under the provisions of Section 1497, as amended by Chap. 117, Session Laws of 1909, all necessary expenses incurred by any local board of health or by any county board of health, are to be paid by the respective city, town or county, for which the person incurring the expense is an officer.

In answer to your fourth question, I will say that under the provisions of Sec. 11, Chap. 130, Session Laws of 1911, it is made the duty of the State Board of Health to enforce the provisions of this act. The State Board, through its Secretary, and through local and county health officers is required to make all necessary investigations and inspections in reference to all foods and drugs, and for this purpose the State, County and local health officers are made food and drug inspectors for their respective districts. Each local and county health officer shall make regular inspections as the rules and regulations of the State Board of Health may from time to time require, and shall make such report relative to conditions existing within his district at such times and in such manner as the State Board of Health may direct. This act places upon local and county health officers additional duties which they are required to perform, and for which they are paid by the respective city, town or county for which they may be officers. However, when such officers incur expenses for samples of food products, under the direction of the Secretary of the State Board of Health, such expenses, as well as those incurred in the necessary transportation of such samples, is a proper charge against the State, to be paid from the appropriation mentioned in Sec. 14, of Chap. 130, Session Laws of 1911, upon verified claim presented to the State Board of Examiners, approved by the Secretary of the State Board of Health.

In an opinion addressed to James E. Davis, City Attorney, Billings, Montana, under date of March 13th, 1912, I stated that local city and county health officers, under direction of the Secretary of the State Board of Health, are acting for the State Board of Health, and whatever proper expense they incur while so acting is to be paid out of the appropriation mentioned in Sec. 14 of the Act, upon claims properly presented to the State Board of Examiners. This opinion was only intended to cover the character of expenses referred to

in the fourth question contained in your letter and herein replied to, and if the opinion appeared broad enough to cover all expenses incurred by local and county health officers, it is amended in that respect.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) ALBERT J. GALEN,
Attorney General.

### OF INTEREST TO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND CITY COUNCILS.

### VALUE OF AN "ALL TIME" HEALTH OFFICER.

With the largely increasing duties of the local and county Health Officers in this State, the question of proper remuneration for these Health Officers is often presented to this office more frequently by the man contemplating making application for such office, than by those who have the appointment of the officer and the designating of his salary. In many cases the salary set by the authorities is ridiculously low with the result that equally ridiculous imperfect service is rendered. On the other hand, in one or two instances at least, the salary is certainly high enough to suit even a grasping politician.

With the largely increasing duties of the Health Officers, it is almost impossible for a man to perform the duties of County Health Officer in one of the large counties without devoting practically his entire time to the work. He must either neglect his practice, or neglect his official duties. With intimate friends among those who have the appointing of the officer on the one hand and with patients who will not tolerate neglect on the other hand, it is not hard to guess who will be neglected. Therefore, it is highly important, where possible, that a man be employed who will devote his entire time to Public Health work and that he be paid a salary sufficient to justify his doing so. This, in the long run, would not result in an increased expenditure for all concerned. It is very difficult to take any locality as an example without some one feeling that this particular locality was selected in order to hit some individual health officer or board of health. Fortunately, however, the recent division of Chouteau county into three counties enables me to use an illustration that cannot be regarded as personal, the county being divided into three counties, eliminates any question of personality.

In old Chouteau county there were five incorporated towns or cities, namely, Fort Benton, Havre, Chinook, Chester and Harlem. Each of these incorporated towns has it's local health officer and the services of this local health officer must be paid for, otherwise no services will be rendered. The county health officer of Chouteau county, we will say, was allowed \$2,000.00 per year, we do not know what salary was paid the health officers in the other towns, but \$300.00 per year for Chinook, Harlem and Chester would certainly be small compensation for a health officer that would perform the duties under the law, as they now exist in this state, for these towns and \$600.00 per year would be a minimum salary for Havre. Thus, with the health officer performing duties outside the incorporated towns receiving \$2,000.00 per year and the health officer in these five towns receiving a total of \$1,500.00, would make a total expenditure of \$3,500.00 per year for health officers. Why is it not feasible for the county commissioners and the city authorities in each county to come together and agree as to what proportion a city and what proportion a county shall pay, and appoint a health officer, the same man being appointed health officer for the towns as is appointed health officer for the county and require this man to devote his entire time to public health work. This would enable the man thus appointed to receive a salary that would justify his studying the subject of sanitation and to devote his time and thought to this subject. The result would be undoubtedly a decided improvement in the character of the work performed in such county. Not only would the man be enabled to devote his time and energy to this work and give the subject careful study, but the salary would be such as to make it an object to him to perform the work properly, it being thoroughly understood by the appointive powers and the health officer that if he fails to perform his work thoroughly, that his contract would be discontinued. That no political or personal influence will be taken into consideration, that he is employed to do certain work and the thorough performance of his duties is the only thing that will enable him to retain his office.

I believe if the county commissioners and the city authorities would consider this question, they will realize that it is

nothing but reasonable and that if they will drop all political questions in the appointment of a health officer, they can get together on one good man who will do his work properly and will save money to both county and city, to say nothing of preventing disease that will not be otherwise prevented.

The following article on "The Evils of a Dirty Back Yard" is well worth reading. If every citizen in this State would read it and profit by it, there would be much less sickness. This may seem to be a strange time to publish an article of this kind, but this is the very time to publish it. Within the next month, your yards should be cleaned up if you are going to accomplish anything by doing so, but we presume the majority will follow the old custom and wait until half of their children are dead from diseases produced by filthy conditions and then begin to clean up their yards.

#### AN UNSANITARY BACK YARD.

(By Miss Miriam Callaway-Virginia City, Mont.)

Each day, on my way to school, I am obliged to pass an unsanitary back yard. So often have I noticed the unpleasant details of this disease breeding place that its plan is, I feel, traced indelibly upon my memory.

One day after seeing some children playing in the yard and noticing how pale and sickly they looked, I thought more seriously about it than ever, wishing I could find some way to make the occupants of the house realize that they were hourly, in danger of contracting some deadly disease.

That night after I had gone to sleep I awoke with a start to find a very queer little personage at my elbow. I rubbed my eyes and stared at him in the utmost astonishment.

"I dare say," he remarked, "that you have never seen anyone like me before."

"No-o," I replied, "I don't believe I have ever seen anyone just like you, but I saw some queer little things that looked something like you through the compound microscope when we were studying germs in our physiology class."

"Doubtless," he said, "they were some of my poor relatives, one of the Scarlet Fever or Diphtherias, but I"—and I thought his diminutive body became inflated with pride, "am a member of one of the oldest and most influential families in Germdom. Our home is Filth and I am Prince Typhoid."

"Oh," I exclaimed edging away from him.

"Well," he said testily, "we are not going to harm you. I have so often seen you look at us earnestly as you passed, that I thought you might like to accompany me on a visit to our home and learn something of our habits and how we live."

As we went along he told me he had come from the unsanitary back yard. While we were crossing the yard I stumbled over some milk pans that had rolled off the porch, and stepped from a pile of rusted tin cans into a plot of swampy ill-smelling ground before the kitchen door. I sank into this above my ankles and could feel the filthy water oozing into my shoes. I hurried along with my guide who paused at the brink of the well.

"Come down into my house," he said, as he swung himself over the edge, "do not be afraid," he continued as I paused, "you cannot hurt yourself if you hold on to the rocks."

I was frightened at the idea of going down into that dark hole, and somewhat unwillingly I obeyed the instructions of my guide.

When we had almost reached the water's edge he disappeared into an immense niche in the crumbling stone wall. I followed him into a room swarming with millions of his kind. "This," said he, "is a small portion of my family. The rest live in smaller rooms around the walls and they continually fall into the water. However that does not harm them and they are very happy when they can get into the drinking water and give some one typhoid fever. This is the favorite home of the Typhoids, but it is much too small for all of us to live in, so a great many live in other parts of the yard. As soon as you wish we will go to visit the Scarlet Fever."

"I am ready now," I cried angrily, "and I am going to report this disgraceful state of affairs to the authorities the first thing in the morning."

"Well," Prince Typhoid retorted, "you cannot harm us unless this yard is cleaned and this well closed up. If you think this place is filthy I do not know what you will think of the home of the Scarlet Fever. We have been doing our work well. Seven people have been ill with typhoid fever from drinking the water in this well. Did you notice that the cesspool is just above? It drains into here."

"Oh, do hurry and let's get out of here; I did not imagine it could be so bad."

As we passed the kitchen door again, my guide said, "the cook throws the dish-water there," pointing to the mud I had stepped in. "Notice the scraps of food for our friends the flies. You know the flies carry us around on their legs, and one day as the fly who was carrying a few million of us lighted there to get food, he dusted himself and we fell off. It was so damp and dark that we settled down quite contentedly. At last I tired of living there so I secured a home in the well. However, I believe this is a better climate for us; we seem to grow faster in it. We are always grateful to any one who keeps a vard so dirty for us, but I know the neighbors do not like it. I overheard two of them speaking about it the other day. One of them said it was a filthy place and that the authorities should stop the people who live here from selling milk until the stables are cleaned and the cows taken care of properly. The other said it would be a great improvement if even the fences and sidewalks were mended and the weeds cut down. Thy concluded their conversation by saying they intended to report it to the authorities and we have been living in dread ever since."

"I hope they do," I said, "it is a wonder if some one is not ill right now with disease contracted from living in this place." My guide chuckled to himself. "Someone is. The youngest girl has diphtheria." "And do they still sell milk," I asked. He nodded in assent, "of course no one knows they have diphtheria."

"I have seen enough of this back yard," I cried. "I am going home and tomorrow morning I shall see what can be done about it."

"Very well," said Prince Typhoid dryly, "it is almost daylight anyhow!" I stumbled over the broken sidewalk and fell.

It was morning and I was sitting up in bed trying to convince mother that I really had visited "the unsanitary back yard."

IN MONTANA.	REMARKS	oz. 120.87%   2.99%   2.60%   73.54%   Craceweight and below standard.  oz. 11.47%   2.05%   1.43%   85.05%   Craceweight and bolow standard.  oz. 11.47%   1.21%   1.43%   85.05%   Craceweight and bolow standard.  oz. 11.195%   1.33%   85.39%   Overweight and above standard.  oz. 11.195%   1.33%   85.39%   Overweight and above standard.  oz. 14.08%   1.51%   1.23%   83.35%   Overweight and above standard.  oz. 12.89%   1.55%   1.48%   83.57%   Craceweight and above oz. 12.89%   1.55%   1.58%   1.58%   0verweight and above oz. 12.89%   1.55%   1.58%   1.59%   0verweight and above oz. 12.89%   1.55%   1.59%   0verweight and above oz. 12.89%   1.55%   0verweight and above oz. 12.89%   1.55%   0verweight and above oz. 12.89%   1.59%   0verweight and above oz. 16.83%   1.59%   0verweight and above oz. 16.83%   1.59%   0verweight and above oz. 16.83%   1.59%   0verweight and below oz. 16.66%   0verweight and averweight oz. 16.60
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BUTTER	Curd	20.87%   2.99%   1.5.19%   1.31%   1.1.5%   2.05%   1.00%   1.1.5%   1.00%   1.1.5%   1.00%   1.5.89%   1.5.89%   1.5.89%   1.5.89%   1.5.89%   1.5.89%   1.5.89%   1.5.80%   1.7.20%   1.7.20%   1.5.80%   1.7.20%   1.
BUT	Moisture	oz. 15.19%; oz. 11.47%; oz. 11.15%; oz. 11.15%; oz. 11.15%; oz. 11.2.89%; oz. 12.89%; oz. 12.89%; oz. 12.89%; oz. 12.89%; oz. 15.06%; oz. 15.06%; oz. 15.66%; oz. 15.66%; oz. 15.66%; oz. 15.66%;
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Remarks	1578 oz. 15.85% 2.08% 1.198% 80.09% Slightly underweight and below standard. 15.84 oz. 11.287 1.15% 2.15% 8.44% Slightly underweight 15.84 oz. 11.287 1.15% 2.15% 84.84% Slightly underweight 16.95 oz. 13.23% 1.69% 1.13% 83.95% Above weight, good butter. 16.90 oz. 10.22% 1.22% 2.25% 83.96% Above weight, good butter. 10.22% 1.22% 2.25% 83.96% Above weight, deidedly underweight. 14.95 oz. 12.43% 2.19% 2.28% 83.98% Excellent butter. 14.5 oz. 12.43% 2.19% 2.28% 83.88% Decidedly under a pound. 14.5 oz. 12.23% 1.11% 2.28% 83.88% Decidedly under a pound. 15.80 oz. 12.23% 1.11% 2.28% 83.88% Decidedly under a pound. 15.80 oz. 12.65% 1.13% 83.85% Underweight. 15.80 oz. 12.66% 1.23% 1.32% 84.65% Underweight. 15.80 oz. 12.66% 2.42% 83.88% Underweight. 15.80 oz. 12.66% 2.42% 83.88% Underweight. 15.80 oz. 12.65% 2.44% 1.58% 83.85% Underweight. 15.80 oz. 12.65% 2.44% 1.58% 83.85% Underweight. 15.80 oz. 12.65% 2.44% 1.58% 83.85% Underweight. 15.80 oz. 12.65% 2.24% 84.67% Overweight. 15.80 oz. 12.65% 2.24% 84.67% Underweight. 15.80 oz. 12.65% 2.26% 84.67% Underweight. 15.80 oz. 11.30% 2.26% 84.67% Unde	15 oz. 12.52% 1.89% 1.14% 84.45% Ur derweight 31% oz. 9.92% 1.82% 2.87% 86.82% Slightly underweight, sold as two pounds. 14% oz. 13.02% 1.51% 2.97% 82.50% Underweight
Fat	2. 15.85% 2.08% 1.98% 80.09% 81.11.28% 1.15% 2.54% 84.84% 81.12.8% 1.15% 2.254% 84.84% 81.12.8% 1.15% 2.255% 84.84% 81.12.8% 1.13% 83.95% A.1.2.8% 1.2.28% 83.08% B.2.2.2.2.2.2.2.2.2.2.2.2.2.2.2.2.2.2.2	1.14% 84.45% 2.87% 86.82% 2.97% 82.50%
Ash	2. 1	2.97%
Curd	2	1.89%
Moisture	15.85 16.85 17.287 18.28388 19.2858888 19.2858888 11.296988888 11.296988888 11.29688888 11.21688888 11.31688888 11.31688888 11.31688888 11.31688888 11.31688888 11.31688888 11.316888888 11.316888888 11.316888888 11.316888888 11.3168888888 11.316888888 11.316888888 11.3168888888 11.316888888 11.316888888 11.3168888888 11.3168888888 11.31688888888 11.31688888888 11.3168888888 11.3168888888 11.31688888888 11.3168888888888888888888888888888888888	12.52%   9.92%   13.02%
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Dealer—Address.	Belt.  - Big Timber.  - Co.—Whitehall  - Co.—Whitehall  - Co.—Whitehall  - Philbrook.  - Co.—Whitehall  - Thilbrook.  - Thilbroo	Barber & MarshallMissoula

### COMMUNICABLE DISEASES REPORTED FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1912.

SMALLPOX—Cases of Smallpox were reported as follows: Cascade (Excl. of Great Falls), 3; Great Falls, 3; Chouteau, 7; Carbon, 3; Fergus, 12; Helena, 1; Lincoln, 5; Missoula City, 2; total, 36; total last month, 44.

DIPHTHERIA—Cases of Diphtheria were reported as follows: Cascade, 2; Dawson, 8; Helena, 1; Powell, 2; Butte, 2; total, 15; total last month, 15.

SCARLET FEVER—Cases of Scarlet Fever were reported as follows: Carbon, 9; Cascade (Excl. of Great Falls), 2; Chouteau, 1; Anaconda, 1; Fergus, 2; Gallatin (Excl. of Bozeman), 12; Bozeman, 3; Lincoln, 2; Madison, 1; Meagher, 2; Missoula City, 1; Silver Bow (Excl. of Butte), 21; Butte, 11; Valley, 2; total, 70; total last month, 86.

TYPHOID FEVER—Cases of Typhoid Fever were reported as follows: Chouteau, 4; Dawson, 1; Fergus, 4; Flathead, 1; total, 10; total last month, 14.

MEASLES—Cases of Measles were reported as follows: Carbon, 2; Great Falls, 1; Chouteau, 8; Helena, 5; Madison, 1; Missoula, 1; Musselshell, 1; Butte, 3; total, 22; total last month, 9.

#### DEATHS (EXCLUSIVE OF STILLBIRTHS) REPORTED TO THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1912. ARRANGED ACCORDING TO COUNTIES AND CITIES.

Beaverhead	AITHANGED ACCO	10	114	<u></u>	-	_	-	01		 	~ ~ ~	_	 		·-			
Broadwater			Small Pox	Tuberculosis	Diphtheria .		Measles		Meningitis	Pneumonia	Nephritis	leart	Intestinal	Violence	Suicide	Alcholism	Other	Totals
	Broadwater Carbon Cascade (Excl. of) Great Falls Chouteau Custer Dawson Deer Lodge (Excl. of) Anaconda Fergus Flathead (Excl. of) Kalispell Gallatin (Excl. of) Bozeman Granite Jefferson Lewis and Clark (Excl. of) Helena Lincoln Madison Meagher Missoula (Excl. of) Missoula City Musselshell Park (Excl. of) Livingston Powell Ravalli Rosebud Sanders Silver Bow (Excl. of) Butte Sweet Grass Teton Valley Yellowstone (Excl. of).														B 22		1 1 2 2 1 1 2 2 1 1 1 4 4 6 6 3	11 8 12 9 6 6 12 11 13 9 9 7 1 15 2 4 9 9

Population—375,000.

Monthly Death Rate per 1,000 population—.800
Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population—9.60

BIRTHS REPORTED TO THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1912, AND COMPARATIVE BIRTH AND DEATH RECORD IN THE STATE.

	Males	Females	Totals	Deaths	Excess of hirths	Excess of deaths
Beaverhead Broadwater Carbon Cascade (Excl. of) Great Falls Chouteau Custer Dawson Deer Lodge (Excl. of) Anaconda Fergus Flathead (Excl. of) Kalispell Gallatin (Excl. of) Bozeman Granite Jefferson Lewis and Clark (Excl. of) Helena Lincoln Madison Meaher Missoula (Excl. of) Missoula City Musselshell Park (Excl. of) Livingston Powell Ravalli Rosebud Sanders Silver Bow (Excl. of) Butte Sweet Grass Teton Valley Yellowstone (Excl. of) Billings Totals	4   25   25   16   16   15   10   15   10   15   10   15   10   15   10   15   10   10	1 1 123 166 9 10 12 4 144 155 25 111 26 23 311 44 19 9 22 111 355 5 5 7 120 9 9 325	5  .37 28 43 25 23 27 14 14 29 21 17 7 10 17 44 12 68 83 32 93 31 10 83 11 7 7 10 11 11 12 13 14 15 16 16 17 17 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	11	1 260 231 166 177 155 100 199 111 165 3 17 6 6 25 9 3 6 6 13 4 11 13 19 7 7 373	



